Vote No. 193

May 24, 1995, 3:32 p.m. Page S-7349 Temp. Record

BUDGET RESOLUTION/Public Campaign Funding & Sexual Harassment

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1996-2002 . . . S. Con. Res. 13. McConnell amendment No. 1154 to the Exon (for Kerrey) amendment No. 1153.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 100-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. Con. Res. 13, the fiscal year 1996 Concurrent Budget Resolution, will reduce projected spending over 7 years to balance the budget by fiscal year (FY) 2002 without increasing taxes. Savings that will accrue from lower debt service payments (an estimated \$170 billion) will be dedicated to a reserve fund, which may be used for tax reductions after enactment of laws to ensure a balanced budget. Highlights include the following: the rate of growth in Medicare will be slowed to 7.1 percent; Medicaid's rate of growth will be slowed to 5 percent and it will be transformed into a block grant program; the Commerce Department and more than 100 other Federal programs, agencies, and commissions will be eliminated; welfare and housing programs will be reformed; agriculture, energy, and transportation subsidies will be cut; foreign aid will be cut; defense spending will be cut and then allowed to increase back to its 1995 level; and Social Security will not be altered.

The Exon (for Kerry) amendment would decrease the reconciliation instructions to the Rules Committee to achieve savings based upon the assumption that the Presidential Election Campaign Fund program will be eliminated, and would offset the cost of that change by requiring the Appropriations Committee to reduce administrative costs of the Federal Government by \$250 million over 7 years.

The McConnell perfecting amendment to the Exon (for Kerry) amendment would express the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying function 800 include "that payments to presidential campaigns from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, as authorized by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974, should not be used to pay for or augment damage awards or settlements arising from a civil or criminal action, or the threat thereof, related to sexual harassment."

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, some statements on amendments were added to the record or were made before the amendments were offered and before debate time had expired. Also, by unanimous consent, 1 minute of time was allowed on each amendment for explanatory statements before each vote.

(See other side)

YEAS (100)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (54 or 100%)		Den	Democrats		Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans	Democrats (0)
		(46 or 100%)		(0 or 0%)		(0)	
Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield Helms	Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Packwood Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone			EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	nced Yea nced Nay Yea

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Those favoring the amendment contended:

We emphatically support this budget resolution's call to end the current boondoggle of taxpayer funding of presidential campaigns (see vote No. 194). However, in case a majority of Senators unwisely choose to accept the Kerry amendment in favor of such taxpayer funding, we have offered the McConnell amendment, to make certain that at least one egregious abuse of the program that has occurred in the past will be clearly prohibited in the future. Recently, 2.5 years after the fact, an audit of the Clinton presidential campaign found that in 1992 it paid \$37,500 to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit against one of the then-candidate's top aides. The Clinton campaign listed this expense under "consulting fees" when asking for public funds. How much of this \$37,500 was for consulting and how much was for keeping quiet is unclear, but it is clear that taxpayers were asked to pick up the tab. It is also clear that the audit of the Clinton campaign turned up so many questionable expenses that the campaign was asked to give back to the Government a record \$4 million. The Federal Election Commission, which was hindered in its investigation of this sexual harassment payment by a confidentiality clause in the agreement between the claimant and the Clinton campaign, has agreed to settle for the repayment of \$9,675, and has reportedly stopped pursuing the matter. Considering that taxpayer funds are involved, perhaps this matter should be revisited. At the very least, Senators should make clear that taxpayer funds drawn from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund should not be used to cover up charges of sexual harassment.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.